

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the above-identified application. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-17 and 20-22, and amended claims 18-19 and 23-26. Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections, and that they be withdrawn.

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 8-9, 17, and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,457,047 to Chandra. Applicants do not concede the appropriateness of the rejections and reserve the right to argue the merits of those claims in future prosecution. However, Applicants have elected to cancel those claims for the sole purpose of advancing prosecution, and respectfully submit that such cancellation has rendered the rejections moot. Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-2, 8-9, 17, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3-7 and 10-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of Chandra and the Examiner's Official Notice. Applicants do not concede the appropriateness of the rejections and reserve the right to argue the merits of those claims in future prosecution. However, Applicants have elected to cancel those claims for the sole purpose of advancing prosecution, and respectfully submit that such cancellation has rendered the rejections moot. Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 3-7 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-19 and 23-26 are each objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants have rewritten claims 18, 23, and 24 in independent form to include features of the claims from which they depended.

Claim 19 is allowable for at least the reason that it depends from allowable claim 18.
Claims 25 and 26 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable claim 24.

Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 18-19 and 23-26 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The outstanding rejections have been properly traversed. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections, that they be withdrawn, and that pending claims 18-19 and 23-26 be allowed. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if any further action is required to place this application in condition for allowance.

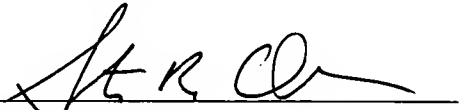
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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